

## ***Barbara Cooper Papers 1967-2012, undated***

**Creator:** Barbara Cooper (1949- )

**Extent:** 3.5 linear feet (7 boxes)

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact [WLArchives@luc.edu](mailto:WLArchives@luc.edu) regarding use.

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright is retained by the creator.

**Preferred Citation:** Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Barbara Cooper Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

**Provenance:** Barbara Cooper donated the materials on July 19, 2012 (WLA2012.31).

**Processor:** Laura Pearce, August 2012.

**Processing Information:** Finding aid updated January 2025.

**Separations:** Approximately 1.5 linear feet of duplicate and extraneous material was discarded.

**See Also:** Other artists related to Artemisia at the Women and Leadership Archives and the Artemisia Records at the Art Institute of Chicago.

### **Biographical History**

Barbara Cooper is a Chicago-based sculptor and installation artist. She was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1949, but grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Cooper obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Art in Cleveland in 1974 and proceeded to further her education at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan obtaining her Master of Fine Arts degree in 1977. At the beginning of her career, Cooper worked in Montana as a faculty member at Montana State University. Throughout her years as an artist, she has also served as a visiting professor at other colleges and universities around the country.

Cooper first became active on the Chicago art scene as a member of the Artemisia Gallery from 1987-1989 and has been affiliated with numerous galleries in the area since that time. Her work has been shown both within the United States and abroad, notably as part of the "High Fiber" group exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC. Cooper has also been the recipient of several awards, including the Artist's Fellowship Award from the Illinois Arts Council in 2000 and 2009.

## **Scope and Content**

The Barbara Cooper Papers consist of 3.5 linear feet of material (7 boxes and 1 file folder) spanning the years 1967-2012. The bulk of the collection relates to Cooper's professional career and includes various correspondence, artist statements, individual exhibit and gallery information, and resumes. The collection also includes a large number of audiovisual materials, most of which are in the form of digital copies of negatives and transparencies. Please speak with an archivist for access to these materials. All series are arranged alphabetically.

### **Series 1: Academic, 1967, 1974, 1977, undated, Box 1**

A small series containing materials relating to Cooper's academic career including class materials, commencement programs, Cranbrook Master's thesis, and her high school diploma.

### **Series 2: Professional, 1974-2012, undated, Boxes 1-5**

The majority of the material in this series relates to galleries, museums, fellowships, grants, and residency programs. This series also includes more correspondence, appraisals, letters of recommendation, and resumes.

### **Series 3: Publications, 1971-2011, undated, Box 6**

This series consists of various articles and photographs taken from magazines, newsletters, and newspapers that discuss Barbara Cooper's work specifically or exhibits and shows she participated in.

### **Series 4: Visual Material, 1973-2009, undated, Boxes 6-7**

This series includes negative contact sheets of photographs, some of which contain Cooper's comments. It also includes photographs of Cooper's work including drawings, installations, and sculptures. The slides in this series document various installations and work done by her former students. The majority of this series has been digitized. Please speak with an archivist for access to these materials.

### **Series 5: Oversize Documents, 1975, 1977, 1983-1984, 1987, 2006, undated, FF5**

This series contains financial reports, posters from exhibits and lectures, and Cooper's diploma from Cranbrook Academy of Art. These oversize materials are stored in the archives' flat file cabinet.

### **Subjects:**

Chicago Art Galleries  
Cooper, Barbara (1949- )  
Feminism and Art  
Illinois Artists  
Sculpture  
Women Artists

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<b><i>Barbara Cooper Papers 1967-2012, undated</i></b>	

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<b>Series 1: Academic, 1967-1977, undated</b>			
1	1	Class Materials: "Stretch Fabric Structures"	undated
1	2	Commencement Programs	1974, 1977
1	3	Cranbrook Master's Thesis	1977
1	4	High School Diploma	1967
<b>Series 2: Professional, 1974-2012, undated</b>			
1	5	Appraisals	2000, 2002
1	6	Artist Statements	1976-1987, 2011, undated
1	7	Auction Catalogue: Anderson Ranch Arts Center	2010
1	8	Auction Catalogue: Pilchuck Glass School	2009
1	9	Allegra Gallery	1986-1987
1	10	Alfedena Gallery	2006-2008, undated
1	11	American Craft Museum	2001-2003
1	12	"Armor" – Randolph Street Gallery	1988-1989
1	13	Artemisia Gallery	1987-1988, 1996, undated
1	14	Beaux Arts Designer/Craftsman Exhibition	1973, 1975
1	15	Bernheim Arboretum	1997-2004, undated
1	16	Blackfish Gallery	1986-1987
1	17	Business Card	undated
1	18	Center for Creative Studies	1991-1992, undated
1	19	Chicago Cultural Center	1993-1994, 2006, undated
1	20	Chicago Parks Brochures	2004, undated
1	21	The Chicago Show	1990
1	22	Chicago Transit Authority Public Art Guide	2011
1	23	Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art	1985, undated
2	1	Cleveland Museum of Art – May Show	1983-1984
2	2	Computation Book	undated
2	3	Computation Notebook	1970-1975
2	4	Consignment Lists	1998-2004, undated
2	5	Contemporary Art Workshop	1986-1988, undated
2	6	The Contemporary Museum – Hawaii	2001-2004, undated
2	7	Correspondence: Art Purchases	1990-2004
2	8	Correspondence: Exhibits and Shows	1979, 1982-1999
2	9	Correspondence: Exhibits and Shows	2000-2011, undated
2	10	Correspondence: Fellowships	1984-2006
2	11	Correspondence: Galleries	1982-2007, undated
2	12	Correspondence: General	1979-2007, undated
2	13	Correspondence: Lectures, Panels, and Workshops	1986-2006, undated
2	14	Correspondence: Letters from Students	1982-1989, 1999, undated
3	1	Correspondence: Public Art	1989-1990, 2001-

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			2011
3	2	Correspondence: Publications	1983-2006, undated
3	3	Correspondence: Residency Programs	1980-2010
3	4	Correspondence: Teaching Positions	1992-2006
3	5	Craft Alliance	1994-2003
3	6	Crafts Council	1997-2001
3	7	Dance and Theatrical Programs	2010-2011, undated
3	8	Davidson Galleries	1985-1987, undated
3	9	Elmhurst Art Museum	1999-2002, undated
3	10	Esther Saks Gallery	1988-1994, undated
3	11	Exhibit Brochures & Invitations: Collaborative Exhibits	1974-2011, undated
3	12	Exhibit Brochures & Invitations: Juried Shows	1974, 1982-1984
3	13	Exhibit Brochures & Invitations: Solo Exhibits	1995-2003, undated
3	14	Exhibit Diagrams	undated
3	15	Exhibit Postcards	1984-2012
3	16	“Frontiers in Contemporary American Weaving”	1976
3	17	Fulbright Applications	1985, 1993-1994, undated
4	1	Gerald Peters Gallery	1999-2009, undated
4	2	Grant Applications	1979-2007
4	3	Greg Kucera Gallery	1989, 1995, 2001
4	4	Herron School of Art Exhibit	2004-2006, undated
4	5	Hyde Park Art Center	1987-1988, undated
4	6	Illinois Arts Council	1990-2006, undated
4	7	Japanese Sculpture Lecture	undated
4	8	Joanne Rapp Gallery	1994-1998, undated
4	9	Johnson Atelier Technical Institute of Sculpture	1979, 1983
4	10	Johnson County Community College Installation	1993-1996, undated
4	11	Kohler Art Center	1988, 2004
4	12	Laumeier Sculpture Park	1995-1999
4	13	Leedy Voulks Art Center	1998-2007
4	14	Lemberg Gallery	2004-2006, undated
4	15	Letters of Recommendation	1985-2003, undated
4	16	Lockport Gallery – Illinois State Museum	1997-1999, 2006
4	17	Long Beach Museum of Art	2003-2006
4	18	Michigan Crafts Exhibition	1976
4	19	Montalvo Center for the Arts	1985-1986, undated
4	20	Montana State University	1980-1998, undated
4	21	National Sculpture Conference: Works by Women	1986-1987
4	22	Paris Gibson Square	1982-1990, undated
4	23	“The Presence of Absence”	2006
5	1	“A Recording of Time”	2000, undated
5	2	“re: Growth” – Bellevue Art Museum	2005-2007, undated
5	3	Resumes	1977-1992
5	4	Richmond Art Center Exhibit	1987, undated

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5	5	“Sculpture Invasion” – Koehnline Museum of Art	2007
5	6	Shipping Instructions	undated
5	7	Shoebox Sculpture Exhibition	1990-1993
5	8	Smithsonian National Museum of American Art	1999-2005
5	9	Southern Illinois University	1999-2003
5	10	Southwest School of Art and Craft	2002-2003, undated
5	11	Sybaris Gallery	1995-2003, undated
5	12	“Terrestrial Forces” – FSU Museum of Fine Art	2003-2004, undated
5	13	“The Tension of Containment” – Textile Arts Centre	1990-1991
5	14	Virginia Beach Arts Center Exhibit	1988-1989
5	15	Welding Guide	1981
5	16	“Women’s Sensibilities” – Women’s Art Registry of Minnesota	2006
5	17	Wright State University Exhibit	1994-2000, undated
5	18	Yellowstone Art Auction	1983-1994, undated
5	19	Yellowstone Art Center	1980-1985
		<b>Series 3: Publications, 2007-2011, undated</b>	
6	1	Magazines and Magazine Articles	1989-1992, 1999, 2011
6	2	Newsletters	1973-2005
6	3	Newspaper Articles	1971-2000, 2007, undated
		<b>Series 4: Visual Material, 1973-2009, undated</b>	
6	4	Negative Contact Sheets – Veneered Pieces	undated
6	5	Negative Contact Sheets with Comments – Veneered Pieces	undated
6	6	Boston Studio Photographs	1978
6	7	“Bronze Tools” Photographs	1983-1986
6	8	Cranbrook Installation	1973-1977
6	9	Cranbrook Thesis Photographs	1975-1977
6	10	Metal Sculpture Printed Photographs	2006
6	11	Missoula Show Photographs	1981-1983, undated
6	12	Photographs of Drawings	1986-1987, 2000-2003
6	13	Public Art Photographs	2004-2009
6	14	Skins/Choices Photographs	Undated
6	15	Student Fiber Work Photographs	1974-1978, undated
6	16	“Tender Tower” Portland Installation Photographs	1987
6	17	“Tools” Photographs	1985, undated
6	18	Veneered Pieces Photographs	1988-2001, undated
6	19	Transparencies – Stapled Veneer Pieces	1990-2004
7	1	“Organic Sensibilities” – Detroit Center for Creative Studies [slides]	1992

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7	2	Southwest School of Art and Craft [slides]	2000-2003, undated
7	3	Student Slides [slides]	1983-1994
7	4	Wright State University Installation [slides]	undated
		<b>Series 5: Oversize Documents, 1975-2006 undated</b>	
FF5	1	Financial Reports	1983-1984
FF5	1	Cranbrook Master's Diploma	1977
FF5	1	Exhibit Posters	1975, 1984-1987, 2006, undated